

Appl. No. 10/729,184  
Paper dated October 11, 2005  
Reply to Office Action dated September 6, 2005

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

**A. Claim Amendment**

Claims 1-16 were pending and, by this paper, claims 1-16 are amended and new claims 17-20 are added. The introductory portions of claims 1-6 were changed from "Method" to "A method" or "The method" in accordance with norms of U.S. practice. Likewise, in claims 7-16 the introductory word "Component" was changed to "A component" or "The component." Claim 1 was further amended to recite a "forming" step and an "exposing" step. In claim 4, the word "part" was changed to "component" to be consistent with claim 1, from which it ultimately depends. Claim 5 was amended to recite that the method of claim 1 "further" comprises a complete metallization step and that the exposure step "comprises" selective ablation. Claim 6 was amended into Markush format. Claim 9, 10 and 16 were amended to correct the spelling of "colour," "colourless," and "aluminium" from the English spelling to the American spelling. None of these amendments were made for any substantial reason related to patentability (§§ 102 or 103).

In addition, new claim 17-20 were added. Independent claim 17 is a method claim which recites "providing a component of a motor vehicle indicating or lighting device" and "exposing at least one surface of said component to laser radiation to realize an optical function on said component." Dependent claim 18 recites "wherein surface of said component are textured by exposure to laser radiation." Dependent claim 19 recites "further comprising, prior to exposure to laser radiation, metallizing said component." Dependent claim 20 recites "wherein said exposure step comprises selective ablation by laser radiation of the metal of said

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surface of said metallized component to expose said surface of said component." Support for these amendments is found throughout the application as originally filed including for example original claim 1-5.

No new matter will be added to this application by entry of these amendments.

Entry is respectfully requested.

**B. Response to Restriction Requirement**

The Official Action dated September 6, 2005 constituted a restriction requirement that identified among the pending claims two patentably distinct inventions (on page 2 of the Restriction Requirement) as follows:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Claims</u>	<u>Invention</u>
1	1-6	Drawn to a method, classified in class 427, subclass 508
2	7-16	Drawn to a component, classified in class 428, subclass 172.

As between these groups, Applicant provisionally elects Group No. 1 (claims 1-6).

New claims 17-20 also are believed to be within this Group. Should the Restriction be made final, Applicant expressly reserves the right to represent the claims of the non-elected group in divisional applications, if necessary. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

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**CONCLUSION**

An early and favorable examination on the merits is requested. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF THIS AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 AND 1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 13-4500, ORDER NO. 1948-4826.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Dated: October 11, 2005

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